Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOPN, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, FEB 23.

REF: SEOUL 1457 (DTG 220901Z FEB 78)

- 1. KOREAGATE: ALL PAPERS REPORT PTS' PROPOSED ITINERARY AS INCLUDING CONSULTATION WITH HUNDLEY IN HAWAII BEFORE BEGINNING HOUSE TESTIMONY FEB 28. CHUNGANG ILBO ESTIMATES ONE WEEK OF TESTIMONY IN EACH HOUSE. ALL PAPERS REPORT MOU GUARANTEEING PTS' IMMUNITY, PERSONAL SAFETY, AND RETURN TO KOREA.
- 2. IN CONTINUING COMMENT ON SECDEF BROWN'S L.A. SPEECH, KYONGHYANG ILBO AND HANKUK ILBO CHIDE "EASYGOING US ATTITUDE IN DEALING WITH ASIAN SITUATION" WHILE EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITY.
- 3. DAY'S MAJOR STORY IS SECDEF BROWN'S HIRC TESTIMONY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL PAPERS EXCERPT AT LENGTH, EMPHASIZING FOLLOWING POINTS: A) DETAILS OF ANTICIPATED US RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN INVASION; B) IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING MAJOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS (TONGA QUOTES "\$275 MILLION A YEAR FOR 4-5 YEARS"..); C) PROMISE THAT US FORCES "WILL INCREASE THE EXTENT AND DURATION OF THEIR MILITARY MANEUVERS HELD IN THE ROK"; D)

INSEPARABILITY OF AID PACKAGE FROM WITHDRAWAL;
E) LIKELIHOOD THAT WITHDRAWAL WILL BE DEFERRED IF AID
PACKAGE IS KILLED. BROWN'S COMMENTS ON DANGERS INVOLVED
IN LINKING PTS CASE TO AID OCCUPY MUCH SPACE.

4. PRESS VIVIDLY HEADLINES THE DETAILED PROMISES
OF VIGOROUS US RESPONSE. BEYOND THAT, VIEWS OF FUTURE
VARY WIDELY: SEOUL SIMMUN'S DC CORRESPONDENT SAYS AID
PACKAGE IS CERTAIN TO PASS, TONGA ILBO IMPLIES COALITION
OF ANTI-KOREAN AND ANTI-WITHDRAWAL CONGRESSMEN GRAVELY
THRREATENS ITS CHANCES; REST OF PRESS IS WILLING TO WAIT
AND SEE.
STERN

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